CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER C 7 CO9D11/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 CO9D Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° Relevant to claim No. X WO 97/10307 A (GEN ELECTRIC CO PLC) 16 20 March 1997 (1997-03-20) Α page 24, lines 11-23; claim 1 1 - 15X US 5 939 468 A (SIDDIQUI MOHAMMED W) 16 17 August 1999 (1999-08-17) column 12, lines 1-14; claim 1 1 - 15DE 197 25 838 A1 (HEWLETT-PACKARD CO... 14-16 PALO ALTO, CALIF., US) 9 April 1998 (1998-04-09) page 5, lines 35-58; claim 1 X US 6 513 921 B1 (HOULE WILLIAM A) 14-16 4 February 2003 (2003-02-04) example 1 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 31 January 2005 07/02/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,

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